

COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of Monday, May 9, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

President, Nina Amendola called the Discussion/Agenda Meeting of Crafton Borough Council to order, in Council Chambers of the Community Center at 6:30 pm.

The First Item on the Agenda was a Special Presentation by Ashley Shiwarski, Inside Sales Manager from Utility Service Partners, Inc. (USP) , Administrator for the National League of Cities (NLC) Service Line Warranty Program. Ms. Shiwarski provided an overview of the Program. In 2013 the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) rated America’s water and wastewater infrastructure with a D, with an estimate of more than \$3 trillion of investments needed across the nation. Most homeowners don’t have enough savings to cover emergency expenses when a water and sewer line break. Many homeowners believe it is the Borough’s or the Utility Company’s responsibility.

NLC Program Highlights include; Nearly 200 cities participate nationwide, there is not cost or liability to the Borough to participate, annual revenue stream, educates homeowners about their lateral line responsibilities, USP handles all the marketing and management of the Program, all repairs performed in code by local, licensed contractors and saved more than 60,000 homeowners across the country over \$45 million in utility repairs. Coverage for water or sewer line from the point of connection to the home exterior includes up to \$4,000 coverage per repair incident, additional allowance for public street repair (\$4,000) and public sidewalk (\$500) repair, no deductibles, service fees or forms, 24/7/365 availability and affordable rates and multiple payment methods. Coverage for in-home water supply and sewer lines and all drain lines to the main sewer stack that are broken or leaking inside the home includes \$3,000 coverage per repair incident, repair of clogged toilets, drain lines under the slab or basement floor, No annual or lifetime limits, no user fee or deductibles.

Ms. Shiwarski, provided additional information on the program to Council. She noted USP recently received authorization from Robinson Township Officials to offer to the Program to their residents, Boroughs of Beaver and Charleroi as well.

Ms. Amendola thanks Ms. Shiwarski for her time. She noted Crafton Borough Council will continue to discuss the proposal and will notify her of their decision.

Ms. Amendola noted that that the Regular Discussion Meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:15 pm, and called the Meeting to Order at that time. Flag Salute led by Ms. Glaser. ROLL CALL, by Manager Scott, recorded Seven (7) members of Council present and One (1) via FaceTime as follows: Mr. Amendola (via Facetime), Ms. Damits, Ms. Glaser, Ms. Perry, Mr. Levasseur, Mr. O’Brien and Ms. Amendola. Absent was Mayor Bloom, also present was Solicitor Gladys.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/O’Brien*) to ratify the payment of bills on the Bill List dated May 9, 2016.

MOTION #1 - carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0)

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/Perry*) to accept the Meeting Minutes dated April 25, 2016.

MOTION #2 - carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

CITIZEN’S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL/Agenda Items only

Ms. Amendola noted that no Citizens signed in to speak before Council on Agenda Items only.

SOLITICTOR’S REPORT

- a. 78 Fountain – Solicitor Gladys noted a meeting was held at the property to view the structure. The Building Inspector is working on preparing a list of estimated repairs that need to be completed to bring the property into Code. Prior experience, the Court typically grants the property owner flexibility to complete the repairs. No new trial date has been set.

Kathy Watson, 74 Fountain, appeared before Council requesting an opportunity to speak on this matter, as this was the purpose for attending this evening. She lives next door to the property, and there is an existing wall between the two properties, she owns the wall, however, they share the stairs leading up to the homes. She would like to replace the wall and stairs, but not until the property matter is settled. Solicitor Gladys noted, in the Allegheny Court System on such matters, typically takes about six to nine months for such matter to be scheduled to be heard.

BUSINESS AGENDA

PERSONNEL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/O’Brien*) to hire the three swim coaches for Crafton Crocodiles as recommended by Crafton Swim Team Executive Board. (M. Schneiderlochner, B. Davis and L. Shine).

MOTION #3 - carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Glaser*) to Adopt Ordinance No. 1635, Amending Chapter 214, Residential Parking on certain streets and modifying parking restrictions.

MOTION #4 - carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Ms. Amendola requested that Mr. O’Brien and Mr. Levasseur provide an update on the Comprehensive Plan and the Steering Committee.

Mr. O’Brien noted that a Steering Committee meeting was held on Monday, May 2, 2016, and it was very successful. The Committee discussed the routes for the Walking Tours scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2016. 9:30 am to Noon is the Ingram Connections, and the walk will begin in the Shopping Center. 1:00 to 3:30 pm is the Crafton Connections and will meet in Crafton Park on Steuben Street. The purpose of the tours is to identify areas where walkability may be improved. Ms. Amendola

inquired if this walking tour was going to be a regular scheduled tour or just for the Plan. Mr. Levasseur noted, it was just for the Plan, there has been much discussion on connectivity and walkability at the Steering Committee Meetings. The tour will provide an opportunity for Community involvement to identify areas that may be improved. Mr. Amendola asked if Police and EMS have been notified of the event. Ms. Scott noted that the Police have been notified, and she will contact EMS to let them know of the event.

Mr. Levasseur noted that a Pop-Up Events have been scheduled for Friday, May 20, 2016 from 11 am to 3 pm at C/I Shopping Center near the Giant Eagle and again on Saturday, June 18. The purpose of the event is to provide information and handouts to residents and those shopping in the area about the Plan. Allow them the opportunity to get involved in the Plan, what they want to see, what's important to them.

FINANCE

Ms. Amendola noted the Borough received the annual Act 101 Recycling Performance Grant in the amount of \$5,247.00. The total annual cost for recycling is \$61,412.64.

Ms. Amendola also noted that the Borough is in receipt of Chartiers Valley District Flood Control Authority annual audit as required.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ms. Amendola noted the Swimming Pool Opens on Saturday, May 28, 2016 at Noon. Pool passes will be sold at the Borough Building, during regular business hours. The Borough is offering an opportunity for residents to purchase their passes on special day and times; Thursday, May 19, 2016 from 6 pm to 8 pm and Saturday, May 21 from 10 am to Noon. For additional pool information please visit the Borough website at www.crafton.org.

Ms. Scott noted that the contractor has been unable to install the foam flooring or decking at the splash pad area, it has not yet been installed. This may cause a delay in the opening of that area on May 28, 2016. The decking requires the temperature to be approximately 50 degrees, at night, for 3 full days prior to installing with no rain. If these requirements are not met, the firm that manufactures the decking will not provide a warranty. Gateway and the Borough are working with the contractor on completing all of the punch list items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Levasseur had a few items to bring before Council. The first item is the public stairs at Clearview, it appears the Borough closed the stairs, residents have made their own natural pathway. He was requesting the Public Works to evaluate them and analyze if they would be able to complete the necessary repairs and approximate cost.

Next item Mr. Levasseur is requesting consideration for the installation of a stop sign at the bottom of Willard and Clearview Avenue. Ms. Scott noted this requires a traffic study to be completed by the Police Department. She will provide this information to the Mayor and the Chief.

Mr. Levasseur noted the Borough completed Phase 4 of the Clearview Project last year. He is requesting Gateway to provide a cost estimate to finish out the remainder of the Project. Ms. Scott will contact them to request a cost estimate for the final project.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the 2016 Road Program bids came in under budget, with a balance of approximately \$150,000 remaining. He wanted to make sure the Borough is taking advantage of the low commodity charges and adding additional streets to the program. Ms. Scott noted that the Public Works Director, Engineer and she have a meeting scheduled for later in the week to prepare a list of additional roads. That information will be brought to Council at the next meeting.

Ms. Damits inquired as to the “No Turn on Red” sign at the corner of Linwood and Noble at the Crafton Service Center. Her understanding was that a truck hit the sign and knocked it down, inquired as to when it will be replaced. Mr. Amendola noted that he believes the sign was taken down, the Mayor and Police Chief removed the sign to alleviate traffic on Sundays coming from St. Philips. He also noted, the No Turn on Red was restricted between 7:00 am and 10:00 pm. He requested the Manager to research the matter, prior to requesting a sign being put back up.

Ms. Perry noted that since our Special Meeting, there are a number of items that this Council will need to address and continue to discuss. She suggested taking on one matter at a time. The one item that seems to be brought out the most is Communication. This happens to be one of the integral parts of the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Perry suggested that we establish a Community Working Group and asked if any Member of Council would be interested in participating. She noted several residents have professional experience that could assist in addressing Community Outreach, including but not limited to the Borough website. The Working Group could make recommendations and bring back before Council periodically.

The next item Ms. Perry wanted to discuss is a Procedures Handbook. She stated that a number of Boroughs have adopted a similar document, and perhaps we can utilize this information in preparing a manual for Crafton. Again, stating that we need to focus on one item at a time, noting, Communication being a priority as well as, an integral part of each these issues. Ms. Damits stated she would like to participate in the Working Group.

Mr. Levasseur noted, he believes that these opportunities to deliberate on various items including Communication, is a part of the Discussion Items on the Agenda. It provides the necessary time to discuss various items before all Members of Council.

Ms. Amendola suggested a specific listing of items, ideas, topics or concerns should be listed on the Agenda under Discussion Items, in lieu of an open agenda item. If a Member of Council has a particular item, they will need to contact the Manager providing her with a list of topics to include. Ms. Scott noted she will need this listing by Thursday before the Discussion Meeting.

Ms. Amendola noted, she is interested in implementing a change of Council “Committees”; Mr. O’Brien, Comprehensive Planning; Ms. Perry, Finance; Mr. Levasseur, Zoning and Planning; Mr. Amendola, Public Safety; Ms. Glaser, Parks and Recreation, and Ms. Damits, Administration. She noted that when Administration was one of the Council representations in the past, there wasn’t anyone in the role of Manager. Ms. Amendola is recommending that Ms. Damits represent Properties, Buildings and Blight. Ms. Damits agreed to the change.

Mr. O’Brien noted that he would like to maintain a documentation of the items discussed at the Meetings. It would provide opportunity so that each item is followed up on and what was done to bring to conclusion or resolution. It would provide a timeline for future Councils and eliminate the need for repeat efforts.

Mr. Levasseur suggested Document Management may be a possible solution. It would provide opportunity to “tag” various documents and retrieve necessary information. He noted, the more technology available the easier it becomes to manage documents.

Ms. Amendola thanked Council for these discussion items.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kathy Watson, 74 Fountain Street, noted that the street in front of 38 Fountain is a disaster, inquired if the Borough could possibly repair. Ms. Scott noted with the new heavy equipment purchased, the Borough is planning on doing repairs on roadways. This work will be completed over the next few weeks. Mr. Levasseur requested pictures of the road for documentation be put on the Cubby for Council to review.

Ms. Watson inquired as to the boulders on S. Linden near the Giant Eagle if they were permissible. She had similar boulders or small rocks at her home in the front yard, and the Borough sent her a letter to remove them. Ms. Scott noted the Borough received a similar inquiry last year, and has a letter in the file from the Solicitor on the matter. She will provide a copy.

Tom Phillips, 85 Union Avenue, regarding his neighbor who is burning coal, wet wood and industrial coke in his indoor fireplace. He stated that it is very hazardous, putting off methane, sulfur, tar and other chemicals. He noted that he and his wife are unable to sit outside or enjoy their home, it’s difficult to breathe and black smoke is coming out of his home. He spoke with the Ordinance Officer on the matter, who stated there are not any regulations regarding indoor fireplace or heating sources used inside the home. Mr. Phillips inquired, why then should he not be able to enjoy his own home. He noted he burns seven or eight months of the year. He has contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and US Environmental Protection Agency, with same response, no regulation on indoor burning as well, unless the resident can be seen by the Department burning wet wood, coal or other materials. Mr. Phillips noted there are nuisances’ laws. He is requesting the Borough consider passing an ordinance that would prohibit the burning of such materials.

Mr. Levasseur noted that the Borough would need to determine the type of materials that would be considered hazardous to prohibit from burning inside the home to include in the ordinance. Ms. Perry suggested that the Borough Solicitor research burning regulations and similar ordinances adopted by other Communities to regulate safe burning. Mr. Levasseur suggested that the proposed regulation/ordinance take into account emission regulations.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/O’Brien*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm.

MOTION #5 - carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott, Borough Manager